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THE

GRAND EXHIBITION OF JAPAN, 1912:

Its Aims and Scope

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A Collection of the English speeches

by

Viscount Kentaro Kaneko, L. L. D.,

*H. I. Majesty's Privy Councillor, and Director-General
of the Grand Exhibition of Japan.*

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With the Compliments of

Viscount Kaneko.

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THE GRAND EXHIBITION OF JAPAN : 1912.

The Grand Exhibition of Japan and the Press.

Viscount Kaneko's Speech at Dinner, Given to the Representatives of Foreign Press, in the Evening of October 30th, 1907, at the Peers' Club, Tokyo.

Gentlemen, I can not let the evening pass without availing myself of this opportunity to explain the nature and scope of our coming Grand Exhibition in 1912, and point out its basic and characteristic difference from those similar exhibitions in Europe and America. In foreign countries, an exhibition is usually organized and carried out by a private corporation, and the Government only assists in bringing it to a success.

Some of you have no doubt watched the history of our previous five Domestic Exhibitions, as well as of our participation in foreign international exhibitions, and have also noticed that in each case, the initiative was taken by the Imperial Government, which organized the whole affairs and carried out entirely under the rules and regulations set forth by them. The proposed Grand Exhibition in 1912 is no exception to this precedent; therefore you understand that it is entirely a Government affair, and comes under the control of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. The organization as well as the regulation of this Grand Exhibition are therefore necessarily different from those of similar exhibitions in Europe and America, with which you are so familiar.

From the name of this proposed exhibition—which is officially styled the Grand Exhibition of Japan, 1912—you may naturally infer that it is a domestic exhibition, but in its spirit and nature, it is thoroughly identical with an international exhibition, because the prime and direct object of the Imperial Government is to emphasize its universal character and to make it as great an international exhibition as possible; though under the present conditions of our country, we can not too boldly assume that this great undertaking is an international exposition. As you all know, the organization and management of an international exposition are now more of a science than in the case of a mere bazaar, and it requires many skilled and specially trained minds. Moreover the material improvement of our country is yet in its first stage, particularly our railway accommodation, hotels, streets and sanitation, and we are not yet provided with many necessary facilities, which foreigners are accustomed to enjoy in European capitals. And apart from this, Japan has had, as you know, no opportunity hitherto to entertain an international assembly of any importance, so that we sadly lack experience in this line. For these obvious reasons, the coming exhibition has assumed the name I have just mentioned; yet the earnest wish of our Imperial Government is to realize, with the assistance and participation of the Governments and people of foreign nations, the objects of an international exhibition.

The Japanese Government has therefore appropriated *yen* 10,000,000, and the different departments of the Central Government, the provincial Governments and many corporate bodies will spend additional sums, which will meet a large part of the outlays for the Exhibition. Moreover the Tokyo Municipality has already decided to co-operate with the Imperial Government in making many public

improvements and providing certain necessary accommodations to make the exhibition a success.

With such aims and objects, the Imperial Government has already sent out a most cordial invitation to the Governments of all the nations to assist and participate by sending those exhibits relating to Education, Science, Machinery, Electricity and Manufactures. Although our Government provides buildings for those five specified exhibits of foreign countries, yet any nation can erect a special building of its own, and can exhibit products irrespective of those mentioned.

I am now happy to announce that the prompt replies are coming from the Governments of various countries. They are as follows:—

(1) Germany.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs sent an answer stating that he had already informed the proper authorities and also notified those concerned, and that he is much interested in this Exhibition.

(2) Mexico.

The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce has, by order of the President, replied that the Government and people of Mexico will both participate in the Exhibition.

(3) Canada.

The Minister of Agriculture wrote to our Consul stating that, in view of his last visit to the Osaka Exhibition, he has arrived at the conclusion that the coming Exhibition will be on a much larger scale than before; therefore when the proper time comes, he will recommend the Canadian Government to participate in the exhibition, which will be of great benefit to the Government and people of Canada.

(4) New Zealand.

The Government of New Zealand informed our Consul that they have decided to participate in the Exhibition, and that in regard to space and kinds of exhibits, they will make arrangements with the Japanese Government later on.

(5) Great Britain.

I will read a part of the letter of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs addressed to our Ambassador in London :—

“In my note of June 26th ultimo, I had the honor to state that I had notified the Authorities interested of the project to hold an International Exhibition in Tokyo in 1912.

“I am now in a position to inform your Excellency that His Majesty’s Government will give their most careful consideration to the question of their official participation in the exhibition. As, however, the date of the opening of the exhibition is so far distant, His Majesty’s Government would propose to defer coming to a definite decision on this point until the arrangements are further advanced.

“The Board of Trade will, however, be happy to direct the attention of the commercial public of this country to the Exhibition by announcements in their weekly “Journal”, and to distribute amongst those interested any copies of the regulations and programme of the Exhibition which the Imperial Japanese Government may place at their disposal for the purpose.”

(6) The Republic of France.

I will again read a part of the letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs :—

“The Imperial Japanese Government can be assured

in advance that the Government of the French Republic will be pleased to participate in this work of progress and civilization.

"I have not failed to draw attention to this project on the part of the authorities who may be interested, and especially of the Ministers of Commerce, Agriculture, Colonies, and Public Instruction, as well as the committee of exposition."

Our geographical position peculiarly enables us to bring the whole of Asia into one focus, and to show all Asiatic products in contrast with those of Europe and America, thus giving a good opportunity for Western people to study the tastes and needs not only of the Japanese, but of the peoples of all Asia, which is fast becoming the world's market. Moreover, Western exhibitors may show during the Exhibition many articles, which have not hitherto found their way to the East from European stores, or American factories; and at the same time, many of our Asiatic products which heretofore have remained hidden, may be brought to the notice of keen Western business eyes, and be exported to Europe and America. Thus we are mutually concerned in this coming Exhibition, which can not but result in reciprocal benefit to all the nations represented.

As in the sixteenth century, the Mediterranean trade shifted to the Atlantic Ocean, so in the latter part of the nineteenth century, the world's commerce is transferred to the Pacific, and the Asiatic problem has now become one of the important subjects in Europe and America. Moreover in the last three or four years, Japan has suddenly loomed up like a spectre above the horizon of the Far East, and all the nations have gazed at her with amazement. Consequently

we have often been misunderstood by the peoples of foreign countries, and we expect to take this opportunity to show what we are, by throwing open the whole country and keeping no secrets whatever. In regard to custom duties on articles sent from foreign countries, and all the materials belonging to the Governments of foreign nations, we shall adopt the same rules as in foreign international expositions, and admit them free of duties. Again for patented articles, we expect to follow the same rule of foreign expositions by giving patent rights to owners from the date they exhibit therein.

Gentlemen, I do not wish to magnify the importance of the press; but I feel that the success or failure of an international exhibition largely depends on what you, the representatives of the press, will do for it. It has been wisely said that "the St. Louis World's Fair was built upon newspaper columns." I think that is very true, and one may easily see from it what a vast influence you can exert. But in saying this, I do not at all mean to ask you to send abroad anything unduly favorable to us. What I want is simply to solicit your co-operation with us to report to the outside world those things which, in your judgement, our coming exhibition justly deserves to have mentioned.

We expect to make this Exhibition a National Jubilee to show our gratitude toward Asia, Europe and America. During the last 1500 years, the Indian Religion and Chinese Philosophy have largely contributed to build up the intellectuality of the Japanese people, and enabled us to grasp the new science brought by Europe and America fifty years ago. After we were admitted to reap the fruits of Western civilization, nineteenth century science worked powerfully upon our mind, and thus made the modern Japan recognized by the whole world. Therefore on this occasion, we hope to show to

our benefactors the results of adaptation and assimilation of the types of oriental and occidental civilization in intellectual works as well as in material products.

Whether we are fully prepared or not to assume the gigantic responsibility of holding such an Exhibition, and of inviting to it all the nations remains to be seen, but our earnest hope is to solicit all the nations to come together and assist us in this Grand Exposition of the arts of peace, and realize the debt, which each one owes to the other, in the matter of promoting science and education, industry and commerce, of which the twentieth century is so justly and so proudly characteristic.



The Grand Exhibition of Japan : Its Aims and Scope.

Viscount Kaneko's Speech at Dinner, Given to the Foreign
Diplomatic Representatives in the Capital, in the Evening of
November 21st, 1907, at the Peers' Club, Tokyo.

Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—

It is a great privilege to have the honour of your presence here this evening, and it is a still greater privilege to be able to lay before your Excellencies the general scope and aims of our coming Exhibition in 1912. As you already know, we have had five domestic exhibitions and have participated in various international exhibitions, beginning with Vienna in 1873, again in Paris in 1889, in Chicago 1893, in Paris 1900 and at St. Louis in 1904. All our domestic exhibitions, as well as our share in those foreign exhibitions we have participated in, have been entirely under the control of the Imperial Government. Therefore, our exhibition affairs are quite different from those in Europe and America, which are planned and carried out by private enterprise. In this respect the coming Grand Exhibition of 1912 is no exception to our previous precedent, and is and will be entirely a Government affair.

We have adopted the style and name of the coming exhibition—the Grand Exhibition of Japan in 1912—because we want to keep as much as possible in the background the name of international exhibition, not giving any sign of having the full scope and extent of an international exposition, with which your Excellencies are so familiar. Why do we do this? Because the present condition of Japan is not sufficient—does not entitle us to boldly assume the gigantic responsibility of extending an invitation to all the nations to come and assist in the exhibition. Because our railway accom-

modation, our hotels, streets, and sanitary system are not in a suitable condition to accommodate a great inflow of foreign visitors, who are used, when visiting foreign exhibitions, to receive all accommodation, comfort, and conveniences in Europe and America. Unfortunately we have never had any such experience as entertaining a large international assembly, but at a certain period of national history, it becomes necessary for the country to invite all the nations to come together, and participate in an international exhibition, and by the assistance of the Governments and peoples of foreign countries, the country which extends the invitation might excavate and open up its hidden resources, and thereby increase its foreign trade. For this reason an international exhibition is much needed in a new country. It is a factor in the educational arena of the world of commerce. The people of one country study all the products of the other, and learn the method and processes of manufacture thereof.

To be sure, Japan has old tradition in history, but is very young in her admission to reap the fruits of Western civilization. Consequently, we cannot abstain, in spite of our national lack of accommodation and social comforts, from having an exhibition pretty much on the lines of the international exhibitions of Europe and America. We need the assistance of Western nations, and the peoples from all parts of the globe. Moreover, our participation in these foreign exhibitions, beginning with Vienna in 1873 until that at St. Louis in 1904, brought to us beneficial and material results, in an increase of exports and imports in connection with foreign countries. Therefore, every time we participated in foreign exhibitions, the result was the benefit of Japan as well as, doubtless, of all the foreign nations represented.

At this juncture, we thought it most necessary and important that we should have an Exposition in the nature of an international one, and invite the assistance of all the nations. As in the sixteenth century, the world's commerce was concentrated in a small narrow space of the Mediterranean, but on the discovery of America, its centre was shifted to the Atlantic, so in the latter part of the nineteenth century, the world's commerce has shifted to the Pacific at the opening of the Far East. Asia has now become one of the most important centre in the world of commerce, and Japan by her geographical position is in easy access to the continent of Asia, to the archipelagoes in the Indian Ocean and broad Australia. On the east, we have the two Americas. The Pacific Ocean is now the common pond, where all the nations are centering their energy to expand, and in the centre of this Japan stands. So it is our bounden duty to collect all the products of Asia in one focus, and show all the nations concerned in the Asiatic problem what markets are before them. And by inviting all the nations to participate in the coming World's Fair, European merchants and American business men may find out many articles of merchandise which they can export, and they would also discover many manufactured goods, as well as agricultural and mineral products, fit for importation to Europe and America in return. The European colonies in the East are, moreover, coming to the front in the world's commerce, and this is particularly so in the Far East, because the colonial trade with Japan—I mean the trade of Japan with the European Colonies—is increasing year by year with rapid strides, and in the coming Exhibition we expect to make a special point upon this trade. Again, a large part of the resources of China, Siam, and Korea are still unknown to the world at large, therefore we recently asked

the Governments of China and Siam to bring all their products, in order to make the Exhibition as genuine and unique a show as possible.

In regard to the articles of exhibit, we have already sent out a circular, and all nations are invited to send their goods. These exhibits are specified under five categories— Education, Science, Machinery, Electricity and Manufactured Goods. Of course, any nation can erect a separate building at its own expence, where it may exhibit articles irrespective of the five classes. As for the five classes mentioned, the Imperial Government expects to erect the buildings with space enough to take in all articles coming under the five heads; but as to the display of such exhibits as agricultural, mineral or fishery products, it is an earnest wish of the Imperial Government that the foreign Governments will erect the special buildings; and furthermore I should like to be permitted to emphasize that such buildings should be built entirely in the style, so as to show their national characteristics. We want to have each building to show its own peculiar architectural art, so as to have the best models of European and American architectures on the Exhibition grounds. This will be an object-lesson for us, by which we might improve our so-called European buildings. With these objects and aims, we have sent a most cordial invitation to all nations, and the prompt replies are coming fast from different foreign Governments. Few days ago, it was reported in some foreign newspapers that the coming Exhibition of 1912 was to be postponed for five years. Allow me to make a correction. The Government has never contemplated such a change. We expect to carry out the preparation for our Exhibition in four years, and are ready to open it on the 1st day of April, 1912.

By this Exhibition we hope to show our gratitude towards our benefactors of Asia, Europe and America. During the last 1500 years, Indian religion and Chinese philosophy, introduced by Chinese and Koreans to Japan, have built up the intellectuality of the Japanese race, thus enabling us to grasp the principles of modern science, brought to us from America and Europe fifty years ago. Had we not had Chinese or Indian influence, we might not be able to reap the fruits of Western civilization, and thus through the influence of the two civilizations, we are now recognised as one of the modern nations of the globe. Therefore we expect to make the coming Exhibition, a great national opportunity to tender our deep gratitude to our benefactors in Asia, Europe and America.

Whether we are prepared or not to invite all the nations to come together and to participate in the eoming World's Fair, we expect to show our gratitude, and at the same time to show our earnest desire—I might say, our national aspiration—to engraft Western science upon Eastern culture, and to blend together and assimilate the two types of Oriental and Occidental civilizations. By so doing, the culture and science of the two hemispheres will meet, not in conflict, but in harmony, and enable us to share in the intellectual achievement and material prosperity of the twentieth century. It is our hope that as the result of our earnest and persevering efforts in the coming Exhibition, we may contribute something to the world's commerce, to the progress of mankind, and to the universal peace.



The Grand Exhibition of Japan, and America's Friends Association.

Viscount Kaneko's Speech at Dinner, Given in Honor of American Ambassador by the America's Friends Association, at the Peers' Club, in the Evening of December 20th, 1907.

Your Excellency and Gentlemen,

We, the members of the America's Friends Association, welcome our honoured guest, Mr. O'Brien, the Ambassador from the United States, which have been, ever since the beginning of our international intercourse, so well represented by those able diplomats as worthy the name of the Great Republic. Most of us here to-night were formerly residents in the United States under the hospitality and kindness of American people. We are the loyal subjects of Japan by birth, and the sincere friends of America by residence. The object of our association is to serve as a social link to fasten the two peoples of the United States and Japan; and to become as an intellectual bridge to connect and assimilate the two types of civilization, oriental and occidental.

When we examine the geographical position of those territories bordering on the Pacific, beginning with Aleutian Islands, and continuing with Alaska, the States from Washington to California, the Sandwich Islands, Guam Island and the Philippine Islands, all of which are the United States territories; and next we find Formosa, all the Islands of Japanese Empire, and Kurile Islands, which belong all to Japan, we realize that the Pacific Ocean is a common water of the United States and Japan; therefore the two nations must assume geographically the joint responsibility of keeping peace on the Pacific; and an increase of America's Naval Power on the Pacific will lessen so much Japan's burden of responsibility to maintain

peace in Asia.

After the American Fleet, which have just left Hampton Roads, reach the Pacific coast, we hope that Rear-Admiral Evans will come to our shore with his fleet, and give us a chance to welcome them and reciprocate hospitality shown so abundantly to our representatives, General Kuroki, Admiral Yamamoto and Vice-Admiral Ijuin in their recent visit to the United States.

At this juncture, Japan announced to all the nations that she has decided to have the Grand Exhibition in Tokyo in 1912 and invited them to come and participate in it. This is undoubtedly the declaration of Japan's desire to pursue the works of peace. If she had ever entertained the least idea of warlike preparation against foreign countries as some people in Europe and America may seem to think, she could not have invited the Governments and people of all the nations, because an international exhibition and warlike preparation can never be attempted at the same time and in the same place. One is the pursuit of peace, and the other its destruction, and one is diametrically opposed to the other ; therefore the invitation of the Japanese Government to all the nations to come together in the coming World's Fair is a sure sign of Japan's desire for universal peace.

This intention of Japan is fully understood and strongly endorsed by President Roosevelt in his recent message to the Congress. When a telegram summarising the message was received in Tokyo, I cabled at once to our Ambassador at Washington asking him to wire the full text of it. In an immediate reply, I got a telegram from Viscount Aoki giving every word that President Roosevelt said in his message touching the Exhibition, and I will read it. President Roosevelt said :—

“ Invitation has been extended by Japan to the Government and

people of the United States to participate in the great national exposition to be held in Tokyo from April 1st to October 31st, 1912, and in which the principal countries of the world are to be invited to take part. This is an occasion of special interest to all nations of the world and particularly so to us, for it is the first instance in which a great national exposition has been held by a great power dwelling on the Pacific; and all nations of Europe and America will, I trust, join in helping to success the first great exhibition ever held by a great nation of Asia. The geographical relation of Japan and the United States and the possession of such a large proportion of the coast of the Pacific, the intimate tradal relations already existing between the two countries, the warm friendship maintained between them without a break since the opening of Japan, her increasing wealth and production which we regard with hearty good will, and the opportunity to increase mutually beneficial commerce, all unite in making it immensely desirable that this invitation be accepted. I heartily recommend such legislation as will provide in generous fashion for the representation of this Government and this people in the proposed exhibition. Action should be taken now. We are apt to under-estimate the necessity for preparation in such cases. Invitation to the French Exhibition of 1900 was brought to the attention of the Congress by President Cleveland in 1895 and so many are the details necessary to the success of the exposition that a period of $4\frac{1}{2}$ years before the exposition proved none too long for the proper preparation of exhibits."

These are the words of President Roosevelt. He is the warmest and greatest friend of Japan, to whom we tender our sincere gratitude from the bottom of our hearts. This I might say, not for us only who are here this evening, but as the general feeling of the

whole of the Japanese Empire. The cordial relations and warm friendship, which have been maintained between the two nations, for half a century, can never be estranged—shall never be shaken by a little irritation, which might, now and then, occur in our international intercourse.

This sentiment of the Japanese is well shown by the Commodore Perry's Monument in Kurihama, erected by our Association in 1901. At the unveiling ceremony, the United States Government had done us the honour of sending the American Asiatic Fleet, commanded by Rear-Admiral Rogers, the grandson of that famous Commodore and astute diplomat. The Monument stands there facing eastward, as if to express our national gratitude to our benefactor—the Government and people of the greatest Republic of the world. The Monument shall stand, as sung in our National Anthem, so firm as to last for ten thousand years and many ten thousand years, until it is covered by grey moss, co-eternal with the History of the Japanese Empire.

The Grand Exhibition of Japan, and Its Relation to Foreign Trade.

Viscount Kaneko's Speech at Dinner, Given to Foreign Consuls of Yokohama and Tokyo and Officers of the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, at the Imperial Hotel, in the Evening of December 23rd, 1907.

Gentlemen:—

Allow me to avail myself of this opportunity given here this evening to explain the nature and extent of our Grand Exhibition of 1912. Outwardly and in name the exhibition would be domestic, but in materials we expect to make it an international one. Then you might ask me, why do we not call it an international exhibition? But when we look upon the present condition of Japan, the condition of the people, and the condition of transportation and social conveniences, we are not yet in a proper position to welcome foreign governments and peoples; therefore, we dare not ask them to come with a notion of participating in such an international exposition, as they are accustomed to in Europe and America, but we simply extend our most cordial invitation to assist us in our domestic exhibition.

LIMITATION OF EXHIBITS.

Neither do we dare ask foreign governments and peoples to send all their products, because the space at our disposal is not large enough to take them all. For this reason, the exhibits are limited under five heads—Education, Science, Machinery, Electricity and Manufactured goods. But here let me say a few words, if any foreign government or corporation would like to send the articles not included in the foregoing categories, such an exhibitor can build at his own expense a separate building, governmental or private, where he can exhibit whatever products he likes; of course, the space allotted him will be

free of charge, and we do not expect to collect a single penny in this connection.

PLAN OF EXHIBITION.

The site of the exhibition grounds includes the former Parade Ground at Aoyama, belonging to the Army Department, which covers about 140,000 tsubo. This is not sufficient for our purpose, and we submitted a humble request to His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, who has granted us the use of his Imperial Estate of Yoyogi. This is nearly 160,000 tsubo, much larger than the Parade Ground. These two places will be connected by a wide avenue, extending somewhere over 700 ken in length. The site has been decided somewhat after the fashion of the Exhibition lately held at Milan, and also is similar to the site of the late Exhibition at Liege. These two grounds are connected by wide avenues, thus we might say that the Belgian and Italian exhibition gave us an example.

ASIATIC PRODUCTS.

We have studied the coming exhibition with special points of view. First we expect to make it a genuine representative display of Asiatic products. As far as we know, no exhibition has ever been held taking in the whole of Asia for the special benefit of the peoples of the West. The gentleman on my left, the Chinese Consul-General, will, I am sure, assist us all in his power to make the exhibition meet our aim and bring a success in this respect.

The next point, we expect to make the exhibition a special one in connection with the Western Colonies in the East. The gentlemen here present have lived in Japan many years, and have studied the trade in the Far East. As you all know that the Colonies of Europe

and America in Asia are now coming rapidly to the front in international commerce. The products of these colonies are coming to Japan, some in the form of raw material, and other in a manufactured shape. This colonial trade of Japan is now held as an important factor of our future commerce in the Indian Archipelago and Asiatic waters. Furthermore it extends beyond the equator to New Zealand, Australia and many other parts of the world. We expect to make Japan the centre of the colonial trade of western nations in the Far East.

MACHINERY AND ELECTRICITY.

In regard to machinery, electricity and manufactured goods, I appeal to your special consideration. You, gentlemen, have studied the growth of our commercial conditions. Japan has just entered the industrial comity; in other words, Japan is just transforming her former industries, as have been in Europe seventy or eighty years ago. Europe was once in the state of home industries, whose factories were found here and there by the roadside, or by little streams. Although Japan is now rapidly changing her industrial condition, we would ask you to bear in mind that we are yet in a very imperfect state. Therefore we ask the Western people, with their experience and scientific knowledge, to bring their new machines and new inventions, and show us how to change properly from home industry to the factory system, of which Europe and America are so proud to-day. So with regard to machinery, I hope you will influence your people at home to bring such machines, as will fit in the present condition of Japan. Supposing you bring a machine, which is so gigantic that we could not possibly utilise in this country at present, I fear that it might be shipped back after the exhibition. Therefore I hope you will tell

your home people just what dimensions, what horsepower, and what kinds of machines are needed for our use.

MACHINES TO BE BOUGHT.

Our Government desires every exhibitor from foreign countries to bring such machines as will find Japanese purchasers at the exhibition. We do not want foreign exhibitors to take back their machines home. We hope to have every one of them bought by our people, and the exhibitors return home with a prospect of future trade. That is the wish of our Imperial Government. Consequently we may possibly limit the horsepower of machinery by the regulation shortly to be issued, with a view simply to guide foreign exhibitors in the class of machines needed in Japan at present. In this connection, I might emphasise two kinds that are most needed now, particularly the hand machines and those having to do with electricity. As you know already, Japan is a mountainous country. From the coast to the base of the hills, the distance is so short that there are many rapids and water-falls, just as in Switzerland, or Sweden and Norway. Water-power is found everywhere, and we expect to utilise it by such machinery, as used in those countries. Therefore if such machinery should be brought here, and its working be explained by foreign engineers, the Japanese will then understand its usefulness, and the machines will be sent for from the different parts of the country, where the pools, water-falls and rapid are abundant. Moreover the street cars, electric light and many electrical plants are still in the stage of infancy. In these lines, we need an assistance of foreign exhibitors. We cannot develop our foreign trade, or increase it without the assistance of western people. Therefore we earnestly request your assistance to make this exhibition a success.

MUTUAL ADVANTAGES.

With regard to manufactured goods, you are more or less directly or indirectly acquainted. As we have no large factories to supply even our own needs, so there is a very large margin to be filled up by the manufactured goods of Europe and America. Let your keen business men come to Japan and compare our articles with their own, they will no doubt find many things that might be supplied by their goods much cheaper than we make them here; because our industrial establishments are not up to the mark of the Western countries. Moreover they will find many articles made in Japan, which can be sent profitably home for commercial purposes. Thus the coming exhibition could easily be made a reciprocal benefit and a mutual gain as well as an interchange of ideas. I might enumerate many examples to corroborate what I have already said. The machine for cutting a timber has been introduced by our Government within the last year or two to be used in the Government forests. Formerly we used to cut our timber by hand-saw; but now we are using the machines imported from England. Such as dyeing substances from Germany, glass wares from Belgium, and engines and iron materials from the United States, and wines and artistic goods from France, are the important articles in our foreign trade, which has grown enormously within the last few years. If this exhibition is carried out in a proper way, it will prove a decided benefit both to Japan and foreign nations; therefore I do hope, gentlemen, to make this Grand Exhibition of 1912, not merely a temporary display of foreign products, but one of the lasting effect upon our international commerce. We expect to make this coming World's Fair a reciprocal and mutual benefit, by bringing foreign machines and goods, nearer and closer to the Japanese market. So closely interwoven should

these commercial interests become, that no power on earth could disturb our cordial relations with foreign nations, which have been so happily maintained for a half century.

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